

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A protective device for deflecting or reducing short duration, large current, electromagnetic impulses which may occur along a RF cable while allowing desired RF signals to pass through comprises in one embodiment an outer conductor having a main body section, a first connector and a second connector. The main body section is cylindrically shaped, has a cylindrically shaped inner sidewall and includes a first end and a second end. The first connector extends out from the first end of the main body section. The second connector extends out from the second end of the main body section. An inner conductor is axially disposed within the outer conductor and extends through the main body section into the first and second connector interface. Insulators provided for mechanically supporting and electrically insulating the inner conductor from the outer conductor. A protective element in the form of a gas discharge tube (GDT) is disposed inside the main body section between the cylindrically shaped inner sidewall in the main body section and the inner conductor. A spring of electrically conductive material is disposed inside the main body section between the GDT and the main body section in contact with the cylindrically shaped sidewall and the GDT and under compression for providing a current path from the inner conductor through the GDT to the sidewall and for maintaining said GDT in position within the main body section.